Preparatory Committee for the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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LETTER DATED 4 MAY 1998 FROM THE HEAD OF THE DELEGATION OF UZBEKISTAN ADDRESSED TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE

I have the honour to transmit to you, on behalf of the delegations of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and my own, the attached statement.

I would be grateful if the necessary arrangements could be made for its distribution as a document of the Preparatory Committee.

(Signed) Alla Karimova
Deputy Head of the Department
of Political Analysis and Prognosis
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

GE.98-61135 (E)

CLUSTER TWO

Working paper submitted by Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan

Proposed elements for inclusion in the report of the Preparatory Committee on its second session

1. Since the holding of the 1995 Conference, the international community has paid growing attention to the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in various parts of the world. The protocols to the Treaty of Rarotonga have now been signed by all the nuclear States. Substantial progress has been made in establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Africa. The Bangkok Treaty on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South-East Asia entered into force on 27 March 1997.

2. Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan are unanimous in believing that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in various regions of the world on the basis of agreements freely concluded among the States of each region contributes substantially to nuclear disarmament and promotes the strengthening of peace and stability at the regional and global levels.

3. On the basis of the Almaty Declaration of 28 February 1997 and the statement issued in Tashkent by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan on 15 September 1997, and with a view to the application of the recommendations contained in decision 2 on "Principles and objectives for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament" adopted by the 1995 NPT Review and Extension Conference, the Central Asian States firmly maintain their intention of establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia.

4. The Preparatory Committee notes with satisfaction that on 9 December 1997 the United Nations General Assembly adopted by consensus resolution 52/38 S on the "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia". In the resolution the General Assembly, inter alia, called upon all States to support the initiative of the Central Asian States and requested the provision of assistance, within existing resources, in the preparation of the form and elements of an agreement on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia.

The Preparatory Committee welcomes the establishment of a regional group of experts under United Nations auspices.

5. The Preparatory Committee welcomes the tangible progress made by the Central Asian States in drawing up an agreement on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia, and the intention to hold a consultative meeting of the experts to examine the main elements of the agreement in Bishkek in July 1998.